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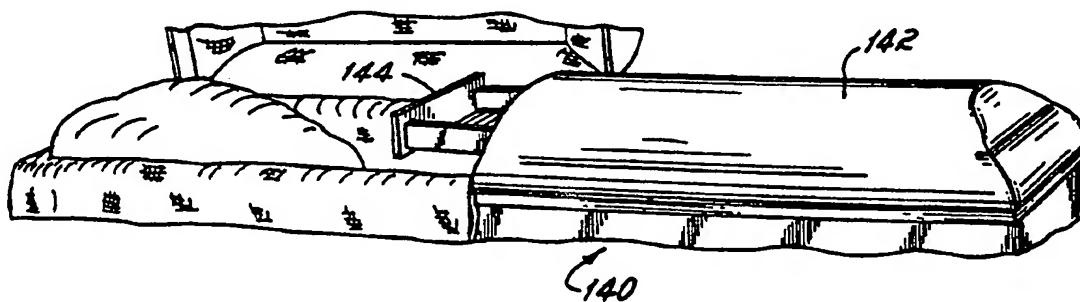
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(54) Title: CASKET HAVING MEMORABILIA COMPARTMENT



(57) Abstract

A casket (10) is provided with an integral memorabilia compartment for the placement, display and storage therein of personal effects and mementos of memorialization of the deceased. In one form the casket comprises a shell (12), a cap (14) pivoted to the shell (12), and an openable and closable memorabilia compartment (162) forming a part of the cap (14). In another form the casket (10) comprises a shell (12), a cap (14) pivoted to the shell (12), and an openable and closable memorabilia compartment (302) forming a part of the shell (12). In both forms the memorabilia compartment is so positioned and configured as to provide convenient access to mourners paying respects to the deceased for placing personal effects and mementos therein and to provide display of the personal effects and mementos placed therein for viewing by the mourners.

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CASKET HAVING MEMORABILIA COMPARTMENTField of the Invention

This invention relates generally to burial caskets, and more particularly to a casket with a memorabilia compartment forming a part thereof.

5      Background of the Invention

Currently caskets, whether fabricated from wood or metal, do not provide any designated, easily accessible, receptacle or compartment for either the placement of personal effects of the deceased therein 10 or the inclusion therein of mementos of memorialization by the deceased's family and friends.

Prior attempts at solving this shortcoming have generally taken the form of the placement of a small memento box into the casket alongside the 15 deceased. However, such memento boxes often appear as an afterthought, simply placed alongside the deceased in the casket somewhat haphazardly. Thus, no designated receptacle or compartment which is an integral part of the casket has been provided which

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could be utilized by the family to commemorate the passing of the deceased.

It is therefore the main objective of the present invention to provide a casket having a memorabilia compartment which is a designated compartment or receptacle specifically for mementos which is an integral part of the casket and which does not present the haphazard appearance of prior memento boxes simply placed alongside the deceased in the casket.

Summary of the Invention

The present invention attains the stated objective by providing a casket with an integral memorabilia compartment for the placement, display and storage therein of personal effects and mementos of memorialization of the deceased. In one form the casket comprises a shell, a cap pivoted to the shell, and an openable and closable memorabilia compartment forming a part of the cap. In another form the casket comprises a shell, a cap pivoted to the shell, and an openable and closable memorabilia compartment forming a part of the shell. In both forms the memorabilia compartment is so positioned and configured as to provide convenient access to mourners paying respects to the deceased for placing personal effects and mementos therein and to provide display of the personal effects and mementos placed therein for viewing by the mourners.

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The cap memorabilia compartment may take the form of any of at least six preferred embodiments.

In one embodiment the casket cap includes a rim and a crown pivoted to the rim, and a memorabilia tray disposed within the cap and accessible upon pivoting the crown away from the rim. In a second embodiment, the casket cap includes a rim and a crown slidably mounted to the rim, and a memorabilia tray disposed within the cap and accessible upon sliding the crown relative to the rim. In a third embodiment, the casket cap includes a rim and a crown attached to the rim, and a memorabilia drawer disposed within the cap and accessible upon pivoting the cap away from the shell and pivoting the drawer away from the rim.

The tray of the first two of these three memorabilia compartments preferably includes a head end compartment, a foot end compartment and a compartment intermediate the head end and foot end compartments. The head and foot end compartments are about one inch deep and the intermediate compartment is about 4 inches deep. The drawer of the second of these two memorabilia compartments preferably includes a front wall, a back wall and a pair of generally triangular shaped end walls connecting the front and back walls.

In a casket which includes a single cap the tray is preferably located in the foot end of the single cap, whereas the pivoting drawer is preferably located in the head end of the single cap. In a casket which

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includes separate head end and foot end caps the tray  
is preferably located in the foot end cap, whereas the  
pivoting drawer is preferably located in the head end  
cap. The casket may be fabricated of either wood or  
5 metal.

In a fourth embodiment, the casket cap  
includes a rim, a header panel attached to one end of  
the rim and a crown attached to the rim; a memorabilia  
drawer is disposed within the cap and is slidably  
10 accessible through the header panel. In a fifth  
embodiment, the casket cap includes a rim, a header  
panel or a portion of the header panel pivoted to one  
end of the rim and a crown attached to the rim; a  
memorabilia drawer is disposed within the cap and is  
15 slidably accessible upon pivoting the header panel or a  
portion of the header panel away from the rim.

The drawer of each of these two memorabilia  
compartments preferably is divided into two  
compartments. In a casket which includes separate head  
20 end and foot end caps the drawer is preferably located  
in the foot end cap. The casket may be fabricated of  
either wood or metal.

In a sixth embodiment, the casket cap  
includes a rim, a crown attached to the rim and puffing  
peripherally mounted within the interior of the cap to  
the rim. A memorabilia capsule is disposed in the  
puffing. At least a portion of the capsule is  
25 transparent to allow viewing of memorabilia placed

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therein. The transparent portion of the capsule is hinged to the balance of the capsule to form a pivoting access door providing access to the interior of the capsule. The puffing is generally quarter-circular in cross section and the capsule is of the same general quarter-circular cross section. In a casket which includes a single cap the capsule is preferably located in the head end of the single cap. In a casket which includes separate head end and foot end caps the capsule is preferably located in the head end cap. The casket may be fabricated of either wood or metal.

The shell memorabilia compartment may take the form of any of at least four preferred embodiments.

In one embodiment the casket shell includes a pair of side walls and a pair of end walls and a memorabilia tray supported by the shell walls and accessible upon pivoting the cap away from the shell. As in the prior embodiments, the tray of this form of the invention includes head end, foot end and intermediate compartments, the head and foot end compartments being about one inch deep and the intermediate compartment being about four inches deep. In a casket including a single cap pivoted to the shell the tray is preferably located in the foot end of the shell. In a casket including separate head end and foot end caps the tray is preferably located in the foot end of the shell. The casket may be fabricated of either wood or metal.

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In a second embodiment, the shell includes a pair of side walls and a pair of end walls and a memorabilia drawer disposed within one of the end walls and accessible upon pivoting the drawer away from the 5 one end wall.

In a third embodiment, the shell includes a pair of side walls and a pair of end walls with one of the end walls including a sliding panel portion slidable relative to the balance of the one end wall 10 and providing access to the interior of the one end wall.

In a fourth embodiment, the shell includes a pair of side walls and a pair of end walls and decorative trim movably mounted to a portion of the 15 shell walls and normally concealing a compartment therebehind; the decorative trim is movable from a first position in which the compartment is concealed to a second position in which the compartment is exposed. The decorative trim utilizable for this embodiment may 20 be the basemold, an ear or a corner post. The decorative trim may be pivotally mounted to the portion of the shell walls or may be removably mounted to the portion of the shell walls.

The main advantage of the present invention 25 is that a casket having a memorabilia compartment therein is provided which provides a designated receptacle or compartment for the placement of mementos therein which is an integral part of the casket and

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which does not present a haphazard, afterthought type of appearance.

Another advantage of the present invention is that a memorabilia compartment according to the 5 principles of the present invention utilizes the wasted or otherwise unutilized space located above the legs of the deceased and/or within the casket cap to form the volume which is utilized as the receptacle or compartment.

10 Yet another advantage of the present invention is that a designated, easily accessible receptacle is provided which is integral to the casket and which will allow for family and friends of the deceased to include within the casket at the time of 15 final closing or prior thereto mementos or other items of remembrance of the deceased.

Still another advantage of the present invention is that the invention will allow family members and friends of the deceased a more meaningful 20 ceremony of memorialization and thereby greater consumer satisfaction with the purchase of the casket.

A further advantage of the present invention is that the invention will extend the functional utility of the casket to a new dimension, one that may 25 significantly aid the cathartic process.

These and other objects and advantages of the present invention will become more readily apparent

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during the following detailed description taken in conjunction with the drawings herein, in which:

Brief Description of the Drawings

5 Fig. 1 is a perspective view of a casket including one embodiment of a cap memorabilia compartment;

Fig. 1A is a perspective view of another tray for the memorabilia compartment of Fig. 1;

10 Fig. 1B is a perspective view of yet another tray for the memorabilia compartment of Fig. 1;

Fig. 2 is a partial perspective view of a casket including a second embodiment of a cap memorabilia compartment;

15 Fig. 3 is a partial perspective view of a casket including a third embodiment of a cap memorabilia compartment;

Fig. 4 is a partial perspective view of a casket including a fourth embodiment of a cap memorabilia compartment;

20 Fig. 4A is a partial perspective view of the memorabilia compartment of Fig. 3 for a metal casket;

Fig. 4B is a partial perspective view of the memorabilia compartment of Fig. 3 for a wood casket;

25 Fig. 5 is a partial perspective view of a fifth embodiment of a cap memorabilia compartment;

Fig. 6 is a partial perspective view of a sixth embodiment of a cap memorabilia compartment;

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Fig. 7 is a perspective view of a casket including one embodiment of a shell memorabilia compartment;

5 Fig. 8 is a partial perspective view of a casket including a second embodiment of a shell memorabilia compartment;

Fig. 9 is a partial perspective view of a casket including a third embodiment of a shell memorabilia compartment;

10 Fig. 10A is a partial perspective view of a casket including one form of a fourth embodiment of a shell memorabilia compartment;

15 Fig. 10B is a partial perspective view of a casket including a second form of the fourth embodiment of the shell memorabilia compartment;

Fig. 10C is a partial perspective view of a casket including a third form of the fourth embodiment of the shell memorabilia compartment;

20 Fig. 10D is a partial perspective view of a casket including a fifth form of the fourth embodiment of the shell memorabilia compartment; and

Fig. 10E is a partial perspective view of a casket including a sixth form of the fourth embodiment of the shell memorabilia compartment.

25 Detailed Description of the Invention

Referring first to Fig. 1, there is illustrated a casket 10 constructed according to the principles of the present invention. While the casket

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10 is illustrated as being fabricated from wood, it will be appreciated that the present invention may be included in either wood caskets or metal caskets.

Referring now to the Figure, the casket 10 includes a  
5 casket shell 12 and a pair of half or split caps 14 and 16 pivoted to the shell 12 by hinges or other means known to those skilled in the art. Arms 18 attach a handle bar 20 to the casket shell side walls 22. The shell 12 includes conventional decorative interior  
10 components such as a big body 24, a small body 26, a pillow 28 and the like.

Cap 14 includes side rim members 30, 30, a head end rim member 32 secured to the head ends of the side rim members 30, 30 and a header panel 34 secured  
15 to the foot ends of the side rim members 30, 30. A decorative dish assembly 36 includes a cap panel 38 and peripheral puffing members 40 positioned around the perimeter of the cap panel 38 and is installed within the head end cap 14. The foot end cap 16 may include a  
20 similar decorative interior but it is not shown in Fig.

1. Foot end cap 16 similarly includes side rim members 50, 50, a foot end rim member 52 secured to the foot ends of the side rim members 50, 50 and a header panel 54 secured to the head ends of the side rim members 50,  
25 50. A crown 56, which normally would be fixedly secured to the upper edges of the rim members 50, 50, 52 and the header panel 54, is instead pivoted to the rear side rim member 50 as by hinges 58. A crown brace

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60 supports the crown 56 in the upward position, as shown in Fig. 1. Suitable latch structure 62 and 64 may be mounted in side rim member 50 and crown 56 to latch the crown 56 in the lowered, closed position.

5 Pivoting the crown 56 upward away from the balance of the cap 16 reveals a memorabilia tray 70 which is disposed within the rim members 50, 50, 52 and header panel 54. The memorabilia tray 70 is preferably fabricated of plastic, for example crematable HDPE, and  
10 may include a plurality of memorabilia containing compartments, for example two rectangular compartments 72 and 74. The tray itself may include a convex upper surface 76 for nesting within the concave inner surface 78 of the crown 56. Alternatively, surface 76 could be  
15 flush with the top edges of the side rim members 50, 50, end rim member 52 and header panel 54. The tray 70 is generally a press fit within the side rim members 50, 50, end rim member 52 and header panel 54. While  
latch structure 62, 64 is illustrated on the front, or  
20 viewing side of the casket, this latch structure could as well be placed centrally on the head end of the crown 56 or the foot end of the crown 56.

Referring now to Fig. 1A, there is illustrated another tray 90 which could be installed in  
25 the casket of Fig. 1. Tray 90 includes a generally flush top surface 92 and three memorabilia receptacles or compartments 94, 96 and 98. Head end compartment 94 and foot end compartment 98 are preferably about one

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inch deep and intermediate compartment 96 is preferably about four inches deep. The intermediate compartment 96 can be deeper than the foot end compartment 98, which is located generally directly above the feet of a deceased in the casket 10. When the body support structure of the casket 10 is raised to the highest position, the one inch deep compartment 98 still provides for the minimal required clearance above the deceased's feet. Intermediate compartment 96, however, is located just forward of a deceased's feet, and therefore it can be substantially deeper, for example about four inches deep as described above. Head end compartment 94 is preferably made of the same depth as foot end compartment 98 to make the tray 90 aesthetically symmetrical.

Referring now to Fig. 1B, another tray 100 is illustrated which can be included in the casket of Fig. 1. Tray 100 likewise similarly includes a generally flat top surface 102 with the three separate memorabilia receptacles 104, 106 and 108 similar to that illustrated in Fig. 1A. In addition, however, the tray 100 includes curved side walls 110, 110 and curved end walls 112, 112. Rather than being a press fit into the side rim members 50, 50, end rim member 52 and head wall 54, this tray would be installed from underneath the cap 16. The free edges of the walls 110 and 112 would then be secured to the rim members 50, 50 and 52 and head wall 54 by any suitable means, for example

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such as snapping into grooves or utilizing wood dowels or the like pressed into holes in the rim members 50, 50, 52 and head wall 54 atop which the free edges of the walls 110, 112 of the tray 100 would be supported  
5 after installation up into the cap 16. The underneath side of this form of tray 100 could be made to look substantially similar to the dish 36 in head end cap 14 including cap panel 38 and peripheral puffing members 40 so as to present the same general decorative look  
10 when the entire foot end cap 16 is pivoted upwardly.

Referring now to Fig. 2, and with like numbers representing like elements, a second embodiment of the cap memorabilia compartment is illustrated. In this embodiment, the crown 56 is slidably mounted to  
15 the rim members 50, 50, 52 and head wall 54 as by tongue and groove joints or the like. In this embodiment, either of the alternative forms of the tray 90 and 100 illustrated in Figs. 1A and 1B,  
20 respectively, would be employed which have flat top surfaces and which sit flush with the top edges of the rim members 50, 50, 52 and head wall 54.

Referring now to Fig. 3, and with like numbers representing like elements, a third embodiment of the cap memorabilia compartment is illustrated. In this embodiment, the head end cap 14 is provided with a  
25 pivoting drawer 120. Drawer 120 is pivoted at its lower edge 122 to a portion of the cap 14, for example to cap panel 38, by hinges or other means known to

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those skilled in the art. The pivoting drawer 120 will preferably be generally triangular in cross section, having a front wall 124, a pair of triangular shaped opposed end walls 126 and back wall 128. Access is  
5 gained to the interior of the pivoting drawer 120 by first of course pivoting cap 14 upwardly relative to the shell 12 to its open position and then pivoting drawer 120 downwardly relative to crown 56 to its open position.

10 Referring now to Fig. 4, there is illustrated a fourth embodiment of cap memorabilia compartment in a metal casket 140. In the foot end cap 142 of the casket 140 there is slidably disposed a drawer 144. Fig. 4A illustrates the construction of the cap 142 so  
15 as to accommodate the drawer 144. The header 146 includes opening 148 for accepting an inner compartment 150 having a flange 152 to be welded or epoxied in place against the header 146. Drawer 144 slides into and out of the interior of the compartment 150, and may  
20 be provided with a recess or groove 154 for grasping the drawer 144.

Fig. 4B illustrates this same embodiment but in a wooden casket. Foot end cap 16 has a header wall 54 with an opening 160 therein for accepting a drawer 162 which may have one or several, and as illustrated, has two generally equally sized memorabilia compartments or receptacles 164 and 166. A recess may  
25 be provided in the header 54 along the lower edge of

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opening 160 to allow one's fingers to grasp beneath the lower edge of drawer front 168 to pull the drawer 162 out. Suitable supporting structure such as a panel or the like underlies the drawer 162 to support it when  
5 pushed in.

Referring now to Fig. 5, there is illustrated a fifth embodiment of cap memorabilia compartment. This embodiment is substantially the same as the Fig. 4 embodiment, especially the Fig. 4B embodiment, except  
10 that rather than the drawer front 168 forming a part of the header wall 54 when the drawer 162 is inserted or slid into the cap 16, all or a portion of the header wall 54 is hinged for example portion 180 hinged at its lower edge to header wall 54 by hinges or other  
15 conventional means known to those skilled in the art, to provide access to a hidden drawer. Thus, the header wall 54 is pivoted downwardly, or a portion of the header wall for example that shown at 180 is pivoted downwardly, to provide access to a drawer disposed in  
20 opening 160 and normally concealed by header wall 54.

Referring now to Fig. 6, a sixth embodiment of cap memorabilia compartment is illustrated. In this embodiment, a capsule 200 is disposed in the puffing member 40. The capsule 200 has a generally quarter-circular cross section to match the generally quarter-circular cross section of the puffing member 40. The capsule 200 would include a rear wall 202, a bottom wall 204 and opposed end walls 206. A transparent

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cover 208 is hinged along its lower edge 210 to the bottom wall 204 of the capsule 200 by hinges or other means known to those skilled in the art. Pivoting transparent cover 208 allows for access to the interior 5 of the compartment 200 as well as continuous viewing of the memorabilia placed therein.

Referring now to Fig. 7, there is illustrated one embodiment of a shell memorabilia compartment. In this form of the invention, a memorabilia tray 250, 10 having compartments 252 and 254 similar to the tray 70 of Fig. 1, is positioned directly in the shell 12 as opposed to being installed in the foot end cap 16. The tray 250 may be supported atop wooden dowels (not shown) pressed into holes (not shown) in the casket shell side and end walls. Alternatively, tray 250 could include the compartment configuration illustrated 15 in Figs. 1A and 1B.

Referring now to Fig. 8, and with like numbers representing like elements, a second embodiment 20 of a shell memorabilia compartment is illustrated. In this embodiment, shell end wall 300 is provided with a pivoting drawer 302 pivoted at its lower edge 304 by hinges or other means known to those skilled in the art to end wall 300. Pivoting of drawer 302 away from the 25 end wall 300 provides access to the interior 306 of drawer 302.

Referring now to Fig. 9, and with like numbers representing like elements, there is

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illustrated a third embodiment of shell memorabilia compartment. In this embodiment, shell end wall 300 is provided with a sliding panel portion 310 slidably relative to the balance of the end wall 300 to provide 5 access to an interior 312 normally concealed by the sliding panel portion 310.

Referring now to Figs. 10A-E, six forms of a fourth embodiment of a shell memorabilia compartment are illustrated. In this fourth embodiment, decorative 10 casket trim is movably mounted to a portion of the casket shell walls and normally conceals a compartment therebehind. The decorative trim is movable from a first position in which the compartment is concealed to a second position in which the compartment is exposed. 15 The trim may be pivotally mounted, slidably mounted or removably mounted to the casket shell walls. In one form as shown in Fig. 10A, base mold 350 is pivoted at its lower edge 352 by hinged or other means known to those skilled in the art to end wall 300. Pivoting the 20 base mold 350 away from the end wall 300 exposes the interior 354 of the compartment. In a second form shown in Fig. 10B, an ear or escutcheon plate 360 is pivoted at its lower edge 362 by hinges or other means known to those skilled in the art to one of the casket 25 walls. Pivoting the ear 360 away from the casket wall exposes the interior 364 of the compartment.

Referring now to Figs. 10C-E, three other forms of the invention utilizing movably mounted

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decorative trim to form the shell memorabilia compartment are illustrated. In Fig. 10C, a corner post 370 including walls 372 and 374 is pivoted to the shell end wall 300 by hinges or other means known to those skilled in the art at edge 376 of wall 372.

Pivoting the corner post 370 away from the end wall 300 provides access to the interior 378 of the compartment. Fig. 10D is similar, except that corner post 380 is a rectangular receptacle having an open top 382, access

to which is provided by sliding the receptacle 380 longitudinally or transversely relative to the casket shell. In Fig. 10E, corner post 390 is similar to that shown in Fig. 10D, except that the post 390 is completely removable from the casket shell and includes a cap 392 for closing the open upper end 394 of the post 390.

Those skilled in the art will readily recognize numerous adaptations and modifications which can be made to the present invention which will yield an improved casket having memorabilia compartment, yet all of which will fall within the spirit and scope of the present invention as defined in the following claims. Accordingly, the invention is to be limited only by the scope of the following claims and their equivalents.

What is claimed is:

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1. A casket having a memorabilia compartment comprising:

a shell;

a cap pivoted to said shell; and

5 an openable and closable memorabilia compartment forming a part of said cap.

2. The casket of claim 1 wherein said cap includes:

a rim and a crown pivoted to said rim; and

10 a memorabilia tray disposed within said cap and accessible upon pivoting said crown away from said rim.

3. The casket of claim 1 wherein said cap includes:

15 a rim and a crown slidably mounted to said rim; and

a memorabilia tray disposed within said cap and accessible upon sliding said crown relative to said rim.

20 4. The casket of claim 1 wherein said cap includes:

a rim and a crown attached to said rim; and

a memorabilia drawer disposed within said cap and accessible upon pivoting said cap away from said shell and pivoting said drawer away from said rim.

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5. The casket of claim 2 or 3 wherein said tray includes a head end compartment, a foot end compartment and a compartment intermediate said head and foot end compartments, said head and foot end compartments being about 1 inch deep and said intermediate compartment being about 4 inches deep.

10 6. The casket of claim 4 wherein said drawer includes a front wall, a back wall and a pair of generally triangular shaped end walls connecting said front and back walls.

7. The casket of claim 2 or 3 wherein said casket includes a single cap pivoted to said shell and wherein said tray is located in a foot end of said single cap.

15 8. The casket of claim 4 wherein said casket includes a single cap pivoted to said shell and wherein said drawer is located in a head end of said single cap.

20 9. The casket of claim 2 or 3 wherein said casket includes separate head end and foot end caps and wherein said tray is located in said foot end cap.

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10. The casket of claim 4 wherein said casket includes separate head end and foot end caps and wherein said drawer is located in said head end cap.

5 11. The casket of claim 2, 3 or 4 wherein said casket is fabricated from wood.

12. The casket of claim 2, 3 or 4 wherein said casket is fabricated from metal.

13. The casket of claim 1 wherein said cap includes:

10 a rim, a header panel attached to one end of said rim and a crown attached to said rim; and  
a memorabilia drawer disposed within said cap and slidably accessible through said header panel.

15 14. The casket of claim 1 wherein said cap includes:

a rim, a header panel pivoted to one end of said rim and a crown attached to said rim; and  
a memorabilia drawer disposed within said cap and slidably accessible upon pivoting said header panel away from said rim.

20 15. The casket of claim 13 or 14 wherein said drawer is divided into two compartments.

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16. The casket of claim 13 or 14 wherein said casket includes separate head end and foot end caps and wherein said drawer is located in said foot end cap.

5

17. The casket of claim 13 or 14 wherein said casket is fabricated from wood.

18. The casket of claim 13 or 14 wherein said casket is fabricated from metal.

10

19. The casket of claim 1 wherein said cap includes:

a rim, a crown attached to said rim and puffing peripherally mounted within the interior of said cap to said rim; and

15

a memorabilia capsule disposed in said puffing.

20. The casket of claim 19 wherein at least a portion of said capsule is transparent to allow viewing of memorabilia placed therein.

20

21. The casket of claim 20 wherein said transparent portion of said capsule is hinged to the balance of said capsule to thereby form a pivoting access door providing access to the interior of said capsule.

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22. The casket of claim 19 wherein said puffing is generally quarter-circular in cross-section and wherein said capsule is of the same general quarter-circular cross-section.

5

23. The casket of claim 19 wherein said casket includes a single cap pivoted to said shell and wherein said capsule is located in a head end of said single cap.

10

24. The casket of claim 19 wherein said casket includes separate head end and foot end caps and wherein said capsule is located in said head end cap.

25. The casket of claim 19 wherein said casket is fabricated from wood.

15

26. The casket of claim 19 wherein said casket is fabricated from metal.

27. A casket having an integral memorabilia compartment for the placement, display and storage therein of personal effects and mementos of memorialization of a deceased, said casket comprising:

20

a shell;  
a cap pivoted to said shell; and  
an openable and closable memorabilia compartment forming an integral part of said cap, said

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memorabilia compartment being so positioned and configured as to provide convenient access to mourners paying respects to the deceased for placing personal effects and mementos therein and to provide display of 5 the personal effects and mementos placed therein for viewing by the mourners.

28. A casket having a memorabilia compartment comprising:

10 a shell;  
a cap pivoted to said shell; and  
an openable and closable memorabilia compartment forming a part of said shell.

29. The casket of claim 28 wherein said shell includes:

15 a pair of side walls and a pair of end walls;  
and  
a memorabilia tray supported by said shell walls and accessible upon pivoting said cap away from said shell.

20 30. The casket of claim 29 wherein said tray includes a head end compartment, a foot end compartment and a compartment intermediate said head and foot end compartments, said head and foot end compartments being about 1 inch deep and said intermediate compartment 25 being about 4 inches deep.

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31. The casket of claim 29 wherein said casket includes a single cap pivoted to said shell and wherein said tray is located in a foot end of said single shell.

5 32. The casket of claim 29 wherein said casket includes separate head end and foot end caps and wherein said tray is located in a foot end of said shell.

10 33. The casket of claim 29 wherein said casket is fabricated from wood.

34. The casket of claim 29 wherein said casket is fabricated from metal.

35. The casket of claim 28 wherein said shell includes:

15 a pair of side walls and a pair of end walls; and

a memorabilia drawer disposed within one of said end walls and accessible upon pivoting said drawer away from said one end wall.

20 36. The casket of claim 28 wherein said shell includes:

a pair of side walls and a pair of end walls;

-26-

one of said end walls including a sliding panel portion slidably relative to the balance of said one end wall and providing access to the interior of said one end wall.

5

37. The casket of claim 28 wherein said shell includes:

a pair of side walls and a pair of end walls; and

10 decorative trim movably mounted to a portion of said shell walls and normally concealing a compartment therebehind;

said decorative trim being movable from a first position in which the compartment is concealed to a second position in which the compartment is exposed.

15

38. The casket of claim 37 wherein said decorative trim is basemold attached to the base of a shell wall.

39. The casket of claim 37 wherein said decorative trim is an ear attached to a shell wall.

20

40. The casket of claim 37 wherein said decorative trim is a corner post attached to a corner of said shell.

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41. The casket of claim 37 wherein said decorative trim is pivotally mounted to said portion of said shell walls.

5 42. The casket of claim 37 wherein said decorative trim is removably mounted to said portion of said shell walls.

10 43. A casket having an integral memorabilia compartment for the placement, display and storage therein of personal effects and mementos of memorialization of a deceased, said casket comprising:

a shell;  
a cap pivoted to said shell; and  
an openable and closable memorabilia compartment forming an integral part of said shell,  
15 said memorabilia compartment being so positioned and configured as to provide convenient access to mourners paying respects to the deceased for placing personal effects and mementos therein and to provide display of the personal effects and mementos placed therein for  
20 viewing by the mourners.

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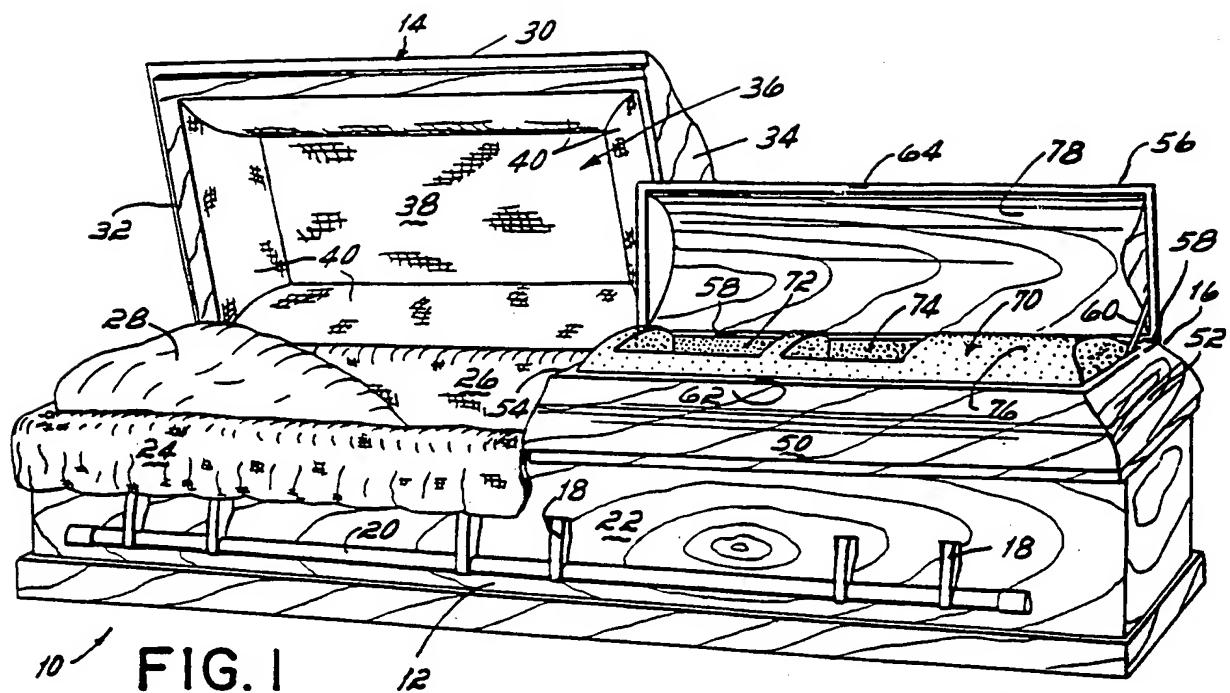


FIG. 1

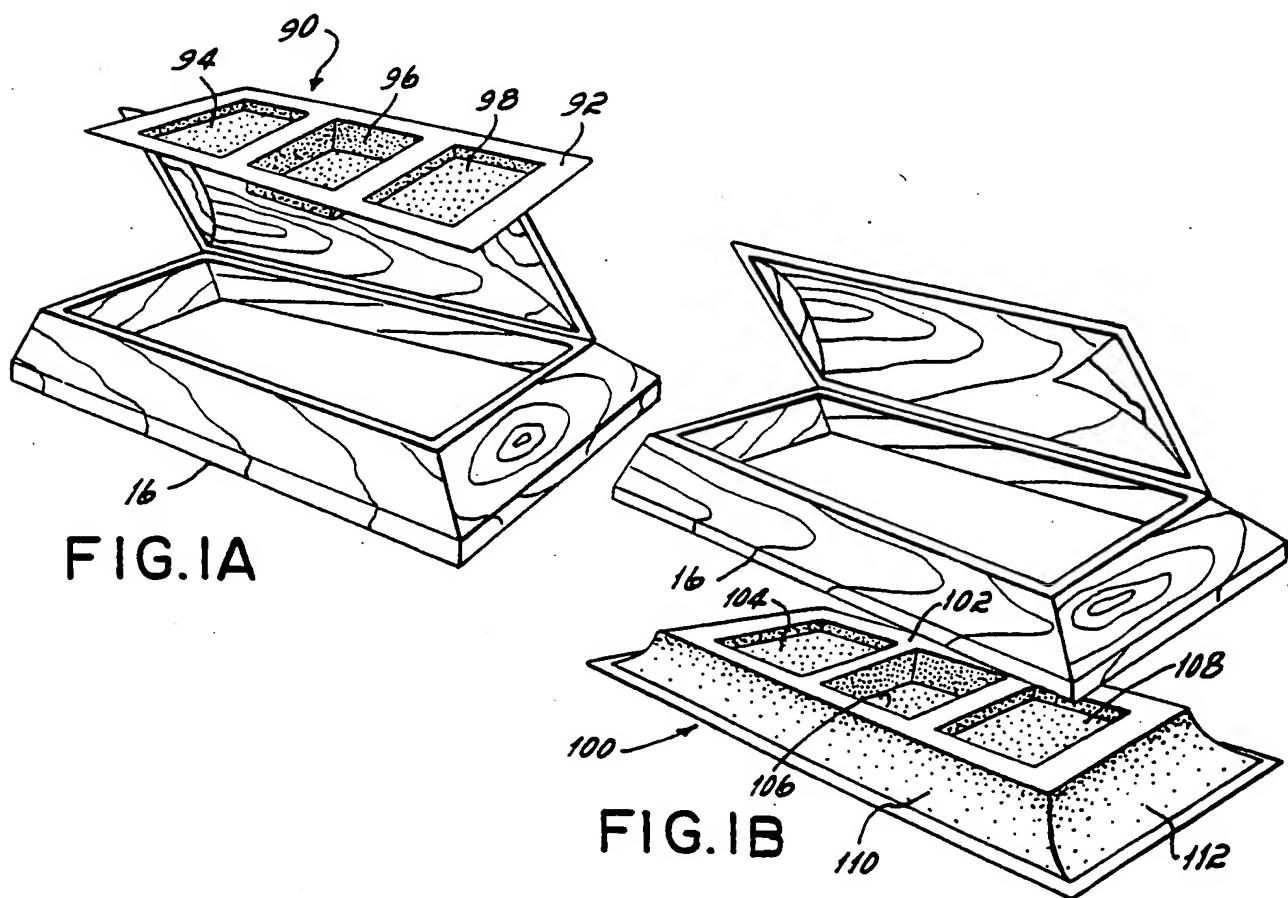
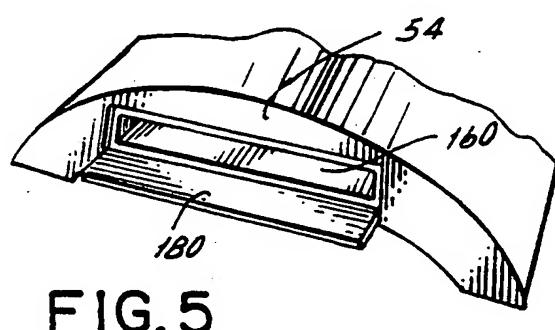
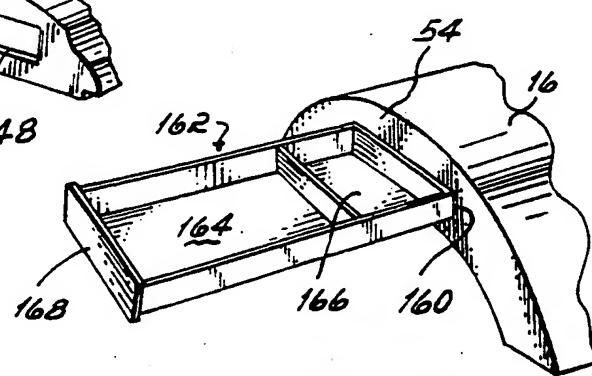
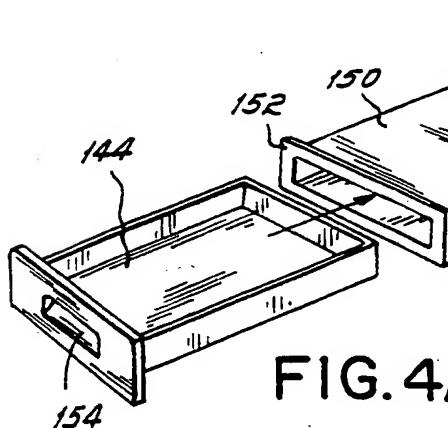
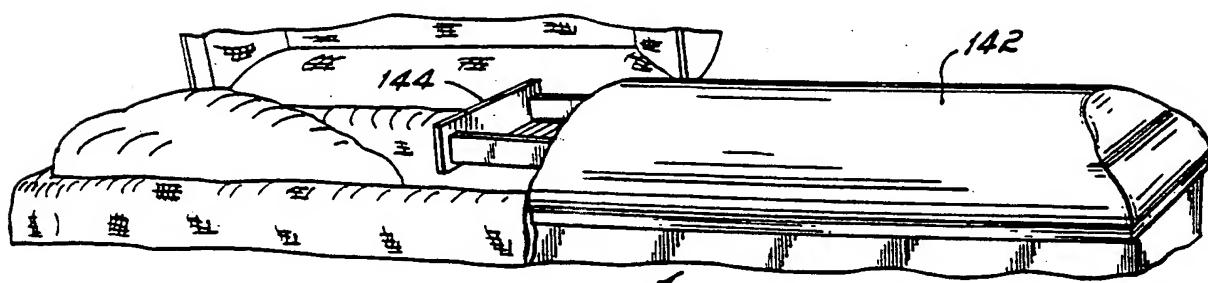
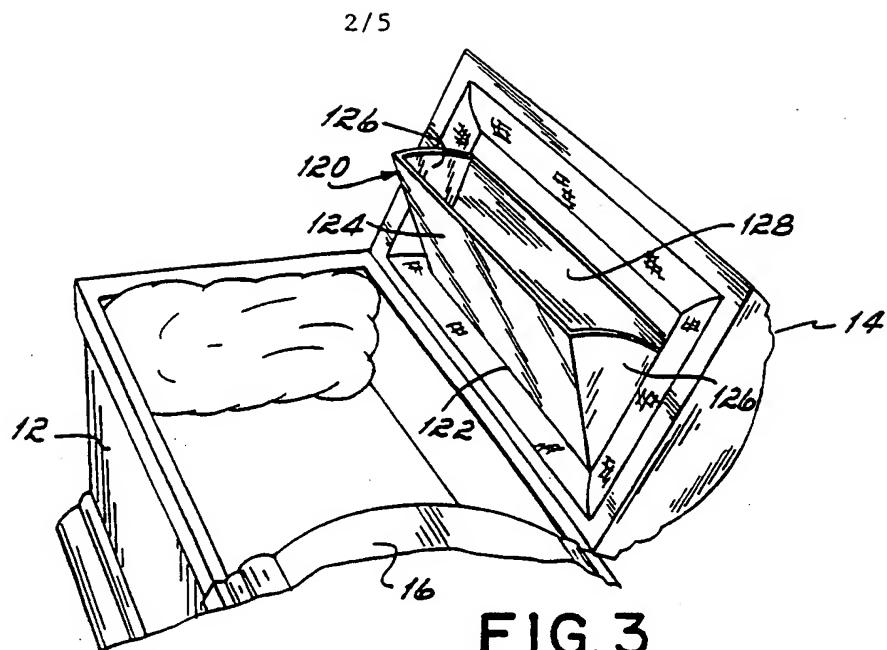


FIG. 1A

FIG. 1B



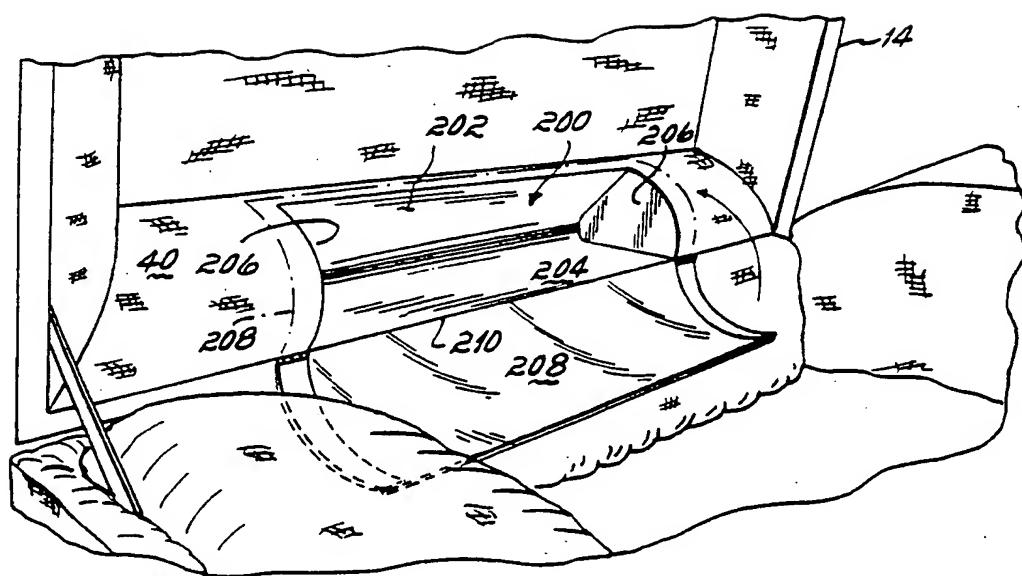


FIG. 6

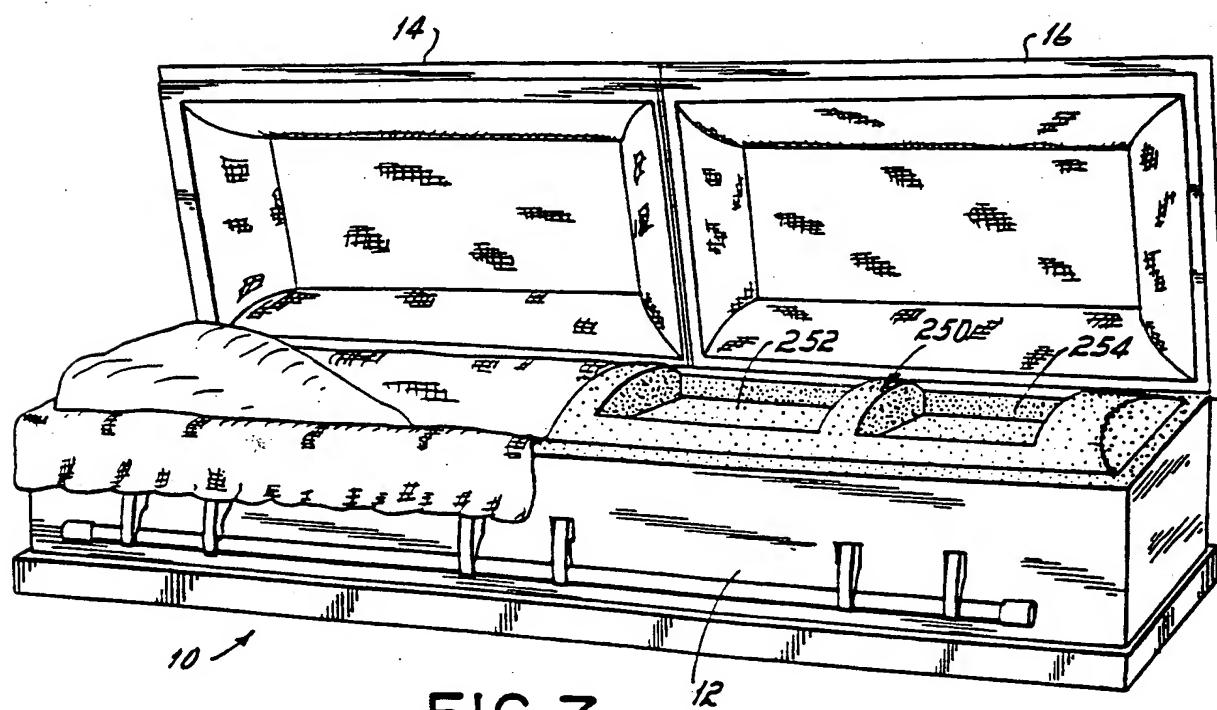


FIG. 7

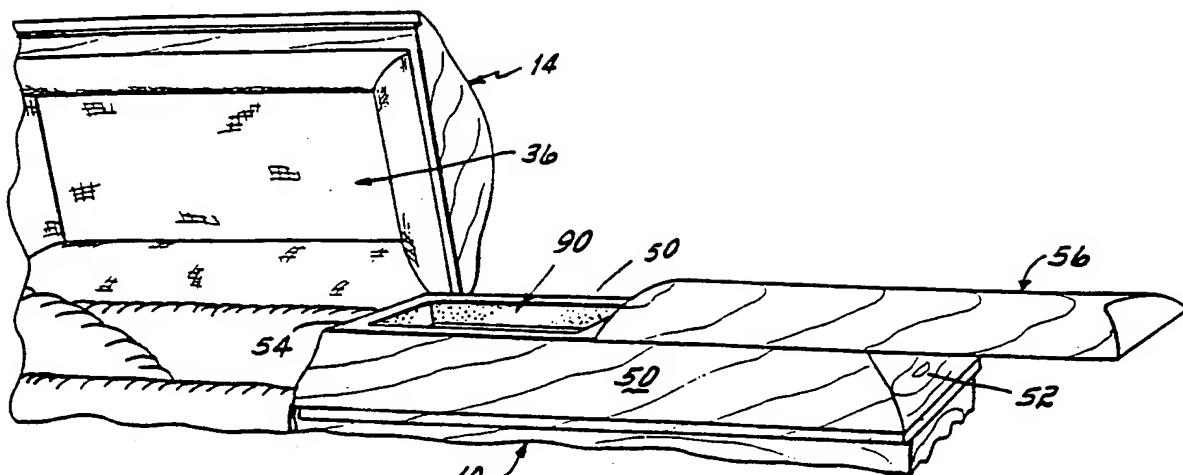


FIG.2

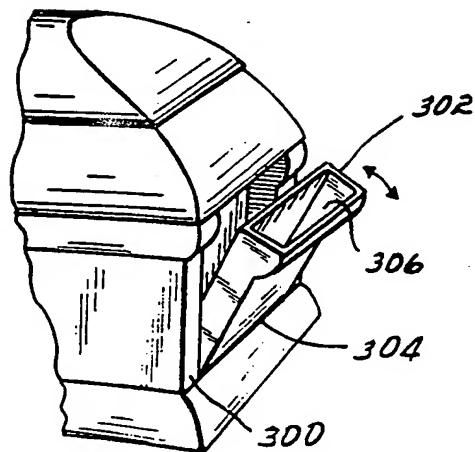


FIG.8

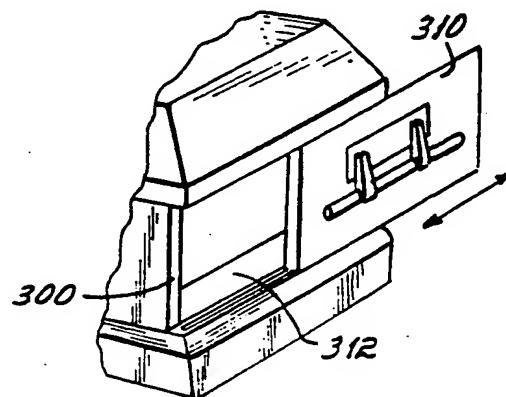


FIG.9

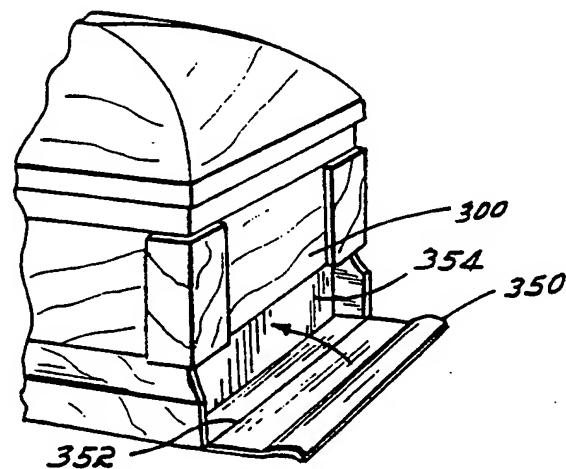


FIG.10A

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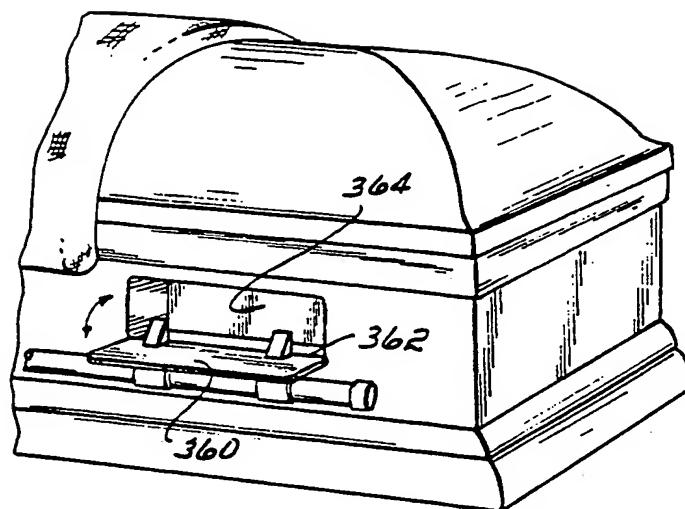


FIG. 10B

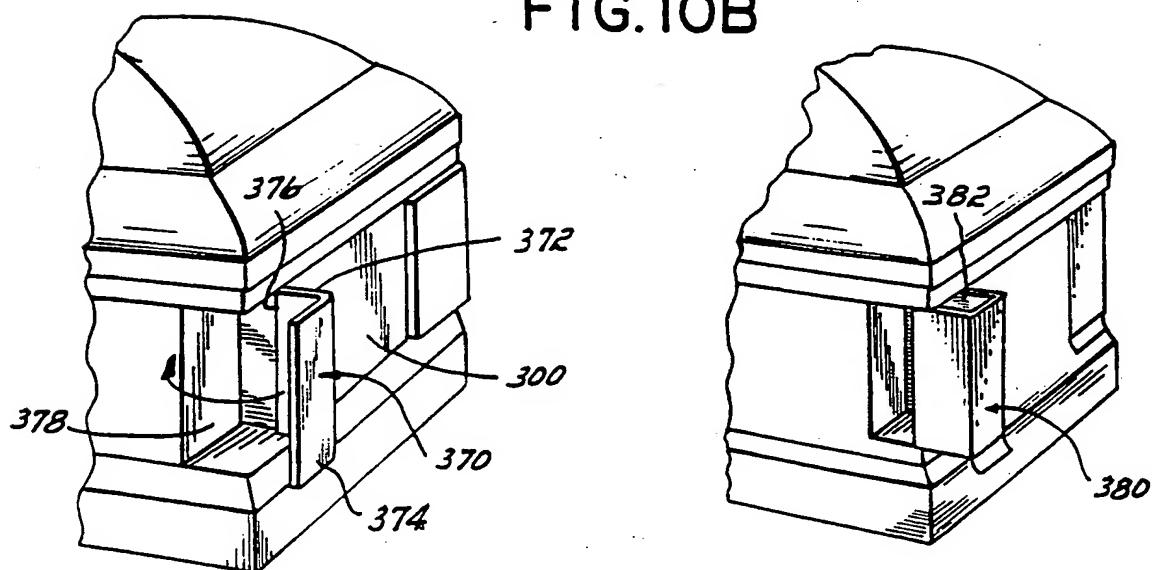


FIG. 10C

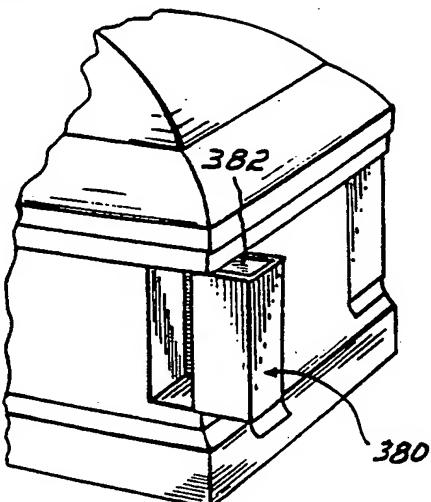


FIG. 10D

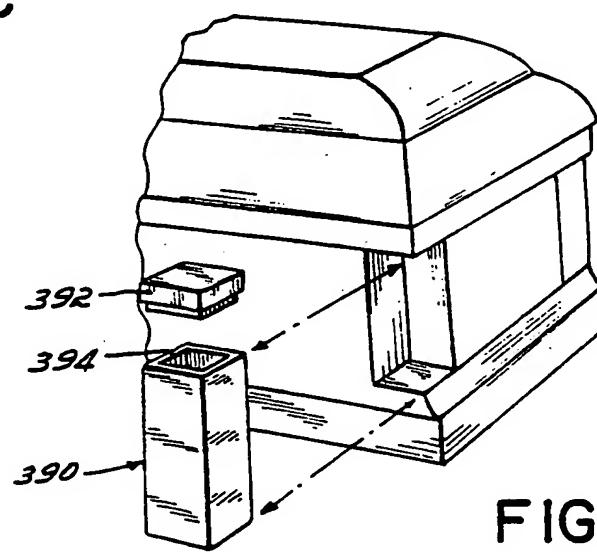


FIG. 10E

## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No. PCT/US96/06337
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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**

IPC(6) : A61G 17/08

US CL : Please See Extra Sheet.

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)

U.S. : 27/1-2,10,14-16,19-20,35, DIG.1; 297/188.17; 312/107,204,328,321.5,330.1

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US, A, 565,282 (KOLLE) 04 AUGUST 1896, FIGURE 1	1-43
Y	US, A, 545,176 (RUEBEKAM) 27 AUGUST 1895, FIGURE 1	3,7
Y	US, A, 5,088,167 (RAHE) 18 FEBRUARY 1992, ENTIRE DOCUMENT	5, 9, 13, 15-16, 30, 32
Y	US, A, 5,238,301 (BRADY) 24 AUGUST 1993, ENTIRE DOCUMENT	4,6,8,10
Y	US,A,5,253,338(SPYKERMAN)19 OCTOBER 1993, ENTIRE DOCUMENT	13,15-16
Y	US,A,5,090,785(STAMP) 25 FEBRUARY 1992, ENTIRE DOCUMENT	35-36

Further documents are listed in the continuation of Box C.  See patent family annex.

* Special categories of cited documents:	"T"	later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
*A* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance	"X"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
*E* earlier document published on or after the international filing date	"Y"	document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art
*L* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)	"&"	document member of the same patent family
*O* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means		
*P* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed		

Date of the actual completion of the international search

30 MAY 1996

Date of mailing of the international search report

13 JUN 1996

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## INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.

PCT/US96/06337

## C (Continuation). DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category*	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US,A,4,252,387(WAGNER) 24 FEBRUARY 1981, ENTIRE DOCUMENT	37-42
X	US,A,331,982(LOVETT)08 DECEMBER 1885, FIGURE 1	28-29,31

**INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT**

International application No. PCT/US96/06337
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**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER:**

**US CL :**

27/1-2,10,14-16,19-20,35, DIG.1; 297/188.17; 312/107,204,328,321.5,330.1